

Annual Meeting of the Summer Residents Association of the Town of Mount Desert

August 22, 2013, 4:30 pm, The Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor, Maine

Board Members present were President Ham Clark, Kathe McCoy, Jan Russell, Don Graves, Andy Pew, Temple Grassi, Charlie Merriman and Lanie Lincoln.

President Ham Clark opened the meeting at 4:30 pm and welcomed the members and the public and introduced Martha Dudman, Selectman to the Town of Mount Dessert. He then opened the business part of the annual meeting. He nominated for a 2nd three-year term Jan Russell, and for a first three-year term Larry Goldfarb, Howard Lapsley, Lili Pew, and Kent Schmidt. There was a motion to approve the slate of Directors. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The next order of business was the election of Officers for a one year term effective following the meeting today. Nominated were; Kathe McCoy, President; Jan Russell, Vice President; Charlie Merriman, Treasurer; and Callie Brauer, Secretary. It was moved and seconded to approve the slate of Officers and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ham then thanked Lanie Lincoln, Andy Pew, and Temple Grassi who are rotating off after completing their second three year term.

Membership Chairman Don Graves reported that there is an Active Membership of 317 and would like to increase that number asking the membership to invite their friends to join.

Treasurer Charlie Merriman reported that the Capitalization Fund is at \$119, 600 comprised of unrestricted Funds all invested and performing well, and \$25,000 of Restricted Funds committed to The Town of Mount Desert in support of the Economic Development initiative. So far this year the capital of the SRA has increased by approximately \$20,000, half of which came from Member's Dues and Gifts, and half of which came from unrealized Capital Gains.

Ham then introduced Town Manager Durlin Lunt who praised the partnership between the Summer Residents and the Town of Mount Desert. Durlin explained that the economic slide of the Town began in 1965-1966 along with a major depopulation shift. In August of 2010 The SRA and the Town began to look at the problem together, beginning with the Revitalization Committee, subsequently with the Urban Land Institute/Technical Assistance Panel in 2012, and now in 2013 with the hiring of an Economic Development Consultant. A steering committee consisting of Durlin Lunt, Martha Dudman, Chamber of Commerce Chairman Matt Hart, Ham Clark and Kathe McCoy set up criteria and received applications for the position. He then gave some background on and introduced Jackie Hewitt, the new consultant.

Jackie began by reviewing the issues brought up by the ULI/TAP and reviewed the issues impeding the growth and vitality of the Town including, the decrease in year round population, the vacant lots and underutilized buildings and the lack of places for year round residents to live. She also touched on the lack of signage, the decline in lodging units, poor cell phone and internet coverage and an underutilized Village Green.

Her focus in short term goals will be a uniform signage program with maps, better identification of the Marina Buildings, improvement of Chamber of Commerce offerings such as

goodie bags and handouts to be tied in with a brochure and a user friendly kiosk or Board with a listing of weekly events and happenings.

There is a great need for a central location for information and possibly an events committee. Better use and increased activity at the Village Green such as Band Concerts, Art and Craft Shows and Pancake Breakfasts will also be looked into along with the possible rental of kayaks and bicycles.

Long Terms Goals will include a downtown development plan with grants for improvements for sidewalks parking and lighting; cell phone and internet improvement and a plan to tie the Town and the Villages together with signage and a Town logo.

Jackie would also like to attract restaurants and housing for businesses and residents possibly through a development Trust. A question and answer period followed.

Ham then introduced John Boynton with One Citizen's Initiative. John reported that he has bought the Wingspread Gallery lot and hopes to be able to build a building with business on the main floor and housing on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

He is a believer in community and is looking for help in bring in economic development to the area keeping in mind the short commercial season. He believes that a capital investment of one million dollars will be needed and hopes that philanthropy will step up to help develop the town in a not-for-profit undertaking.

John also has interest in the old pharmacy building, the Mount Desert Apothecary, for a possible soda and coffee shop with an internet café.

After a short question and answer session Ham Clark thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lanie Lincoln for Callie Brauer